

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 16, 2021

The Honorable Isabella Casillas Guzman
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St, SW Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman:

We are writing to bring your immediate attention to the ongoing struggles experienced by both Minnesota small business owners and their Congressional representatives in working with the Small Business Administration (SBA). Specifically, we are referring to the lack of communication from your agency.

Through no fault of their own, small business owners across Minnesota have had to depend on the SBA to access much-needed capital during the COVID-19 crisis. We are grateful for the SBA's programs that have provided small businesses a lifeline and a pathway toward recovery.

Despite these programs, there remains an increasingly deep sense of concern with the disastrous effects of the Biden Administration's failed economic policies. From the highest recorded inflation rates the U.S. has seen in over 20 years to the steady growing rate of unemployment, small businesses continue to struggle.

With these factors in mind, we have heard from many small businesses throughout our districts that have not received accurate or timely information regarding their comments, questions, or concerns made to the SBA. After failed communication attempts with your agency, these businesses have turned to their Congressional representatives for answers.

As Members of Congress, providing support and navigation through the endless bureaucracy of the Federal government is one of our key responsibilities. However, we continue to experience little to no communication from your office, as well. For example, questions regarding the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF) program were sent to your office in the form of two separate letters, the first sent on May 20th, 2021, and the second on June 22nd, 2021. As of today, August 16th, 2021, neither letter has received any indication of acknowledgement or response to the questions we posed.

We are disappointed that despite having four members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation seated on the House Small Business Committee, only our Democrat colleagues were invited to your event in the Twin Cities on August 16th, 2021. The SBA exists to assist all small businesses, regardless of our own political affiliation, and therefore we invite you to visit our

districts to better engage and communicate with our constituents. After all, rural Americans matter too.

We thank you for your attention to this matter as we work together to ensure that the struggling businesses in both the rural and metropolitan areas of Minnesota are heard and able to obtain the direction necessary to recover fully from this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Hagedorn".

Jim Hagedorn (MN-01)
Ranking Member
Small Business Subcommittee on Underserved,
Agricultural, and Rural Business Development

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Stauber".

Pete Stauber (MN-08)
Member
Committee on Small Business

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Emmer".

Tom Emmer (MN-06)
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Fischbach".

Michelle Fischbach (MN-07)
Member of Congress